

orfup1 (SEQ ID NO: 4), orfdwn1 (SEQ ID NO: 5), orfdwn2 (SEQ ID NO: 6) or orfdwn3 (SEQ ID NO: 7) or a degenerate variant of orfup3 (SEQ ID NO: 2), orfup2 (SEQ ID NO: 3), orfup1 (SEQ ID NO: 4), orfdwn1 (SEQ ID NO: 5), orfdwn2 (SEQ ID NO: 6) or orfdwn3 (SEQ ID NO: 7);

(b) fermenting said *Streptomyces*; and

(c) purifying clavulanic acid therefrom.

46. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 45, wherein the *Streptomyces* is *S. clavuligerus*.

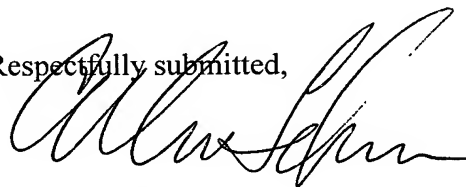
47. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 45, wherein the clavulanic acid is in the form of a potassium salt.

48. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 45, further comprising a beta-lactam antibiotic.

49. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 47, wherein the beta-lactam antibiotic is amoxycillin.

Support for this preliminary amendment can be found on page 3, lines 6-11, and lines 21-31 and page 4, lines 7-15. Furthermore, additional support for the preliminary amendments can be found in the various examples set forth in the specification.

Respectfully submitted,



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